

## House Resolution 1606

By: Representatives Benton of the 31<sup>st</sup>, McCall of the 30<sup>th</sup>, and England of the 108<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Mr. James S. "Jimmy" Johnson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens  
3 with the passing of Mr. James S. "Jimmy" Johnson on November 13, 2009; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was born and raised on the family hog, cattle, crop and poultry  
5 farm in the Galilee Community of Jefferson, Georgia, a beloved son of the late James  
6 Augustus and Emma Carlton Johnson; and
- 7 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United  
8 States military during World War II as an infantry machine gunner and assisted in liberating  
9 Nazi death camps; and
- 10 WHEREAS, an avid farmer and agricultural steward, Mr. Johnson had one of the earliest  
11 started and longest continuous herds of Angus cattle, planted hybrid Bermuda grass in the  
12 1940s, built some of the first poultry houses in the 1950s, and artificially bred his cows  
13 before it was a commonly accepted practice; and
- 14 WHEREAS, he was a leader in several state and community agricultural organizations,  
15 including organizer and past director of the Georgia Cattlemen's Association, supervisor for  
16 the Oconee River Soil and Water Conservation District, and president of the Jackson County  
17 Cattlemen's Association, the Northeast Georgia Cattlemen's Association, and the Georgia  
18 Angus Association; and
- 19 WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Mr. Johnson was a member of Galilee  
20 Christian Church for 77 years, serving as Sunday school superintendent and a deacon for 25  
21 years; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnson was united in love and marriage to Ruth Copeland Johnson on  
23 February 15, 1948, and was blessed with four children, Linda, Shirley, Dewey, and Randy;  
24 five grandchildren, Eli, Laura, Audrey, J.T., and Nathan; and a great-grandson, Sam; and

25 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and deep concern  
26 for his fellow citizens, and the devotion, patience, and understanding he demonstrated to his  
27 family and friends were admired by others; and

28 WHEREAS, he was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation  
29 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness and, by the example he made of his life, he  
30 made this world a better place in which to live; and

31 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Mr. Johnson will long be remembered for  
32 his love of farming, family, and friendship, and this loyal husband, father, grandfather, and  
33 friend will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
35 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of Mr. James S. "Jimmy"  
36 Johnson and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
38 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Mr. James S.  
39 "Jimmy" Johnson.